

1 March 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Support)

SUBJECT : A Proposal for the Acquisition and Renovation of New  
Quarters for the National Photographic Interpretation  
Center

PROBLEM

To provide adequate space and facilities over a minimum 5-year period for the National Photographic Interpretation Center to carry out its mission as set forth in NSCID #8.

FACTS BEARING ON THE PROBLEM

1. The Photographic Intelligence Center, CIA had outgrown its quarters in the Steuart Building prior to the establishment of the National Photographic Interpretation Center on 19 January 1961. The augmentation of the [redacted] positions to take place over the coming 18 months aggravates this situation and assures the unsuitability of the Steuart Building for continuing use as headquarters for the operation. This unsatisfactory situation was recognized in February 1960 and the search for new quarters was undertaken.

25X1

2. Creation of the national center means in terms of personnel increases alone not only the aforementioned CIA buildup but contributions from the military services over the coming months of at least [redacted] personnel and the anticipation of further and more sizeable increments from all four participants over the following five year period. Our best estimates show that within 18 months, the earliest practicable moving date, the strength of the Center and co-located [redacted]

25X1

25X1A

25X9A2

3. New and increasingly sophisticated collection systems now in operation or programmed over the next 2 years require for satisfactory exploitation not only additional personnel but more complex and space consuming equipment and greater numbers of such equipment items.

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4. The costliness of relocating an operation such as NPIC, which utilizes a very large percentage of its total usable space for equipment, laboratory space, layout areas, storage, etc. as opposed to normal office space militates against locating in any building which does not offer at a minimum anticipated expansion room for 5 years.

5. A building containing approximately [ ] sq. ft. of space usable for intelligence purposes and adequate to provide for NPIC needs under the above mentioned conditions is available [ ]

[ ] The building has many features which readily lend themselves to modification for our use although considerable internal construction and renovation will be necessary.

6. The architectural and engineering firm of [ ] acting under a multi-purpose contract to NPIC, has carefully assessed the suitability of [ ] for NPIC operations. This contractor, who is completely familiar with the present operations and future plans of the Center through its work in several phases of the overall contract, fully supports the acquisition and renovation of [ ] and, in fact, is preparing schematic design layouts which will serve as necessary preliminary data for a subsequent A and E contract.

7. The estimated cost of the required construction and renovation is between [ ] and [ ] This sum includes the architect and engineering fees and the cost of moving the remaining [ ] elements out of the building. The time necessary for further planning and completion of work on the premises is about 18 months.

#### DISCUSSION

The space currently available to the Center in the Steuart Building is inadequate to permit maximum performance. Examples can be easily found where multiple pieces of equipment cannot be efficiently operated simultaneously thereby slowing down processing and production. Other items, highly desirable from the Center's standpoint, cannot be ordered because of lack of space. This situation is being aggravated not only by the need for additional pieces of equipment but by the considerably increased dimensions of the hardware.

For example, copy cameras now in use measure 10 ft. in length whereas the new models required are 20 ft. in length; enlargers, now 2 ft. sq., will be replaced by or supplemented with enlargers measuring 16 ft. sq.; present projection viewers measure 2 ft. sq. while the improved ones measure 6 ft. by 3½ ft.

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In addition whole lines of equipment will be added; Minicard capacity is being doubled; the present IBM set up will be about tripled; the number of multilith presses will increase from 4 to 12.

The above examples serve to point out some of the problems faced in attempting to plan space for this type of operation over a five year period. Added to this, of course, is the requirement for additional personnel and the resulting office and work space which must be laid out.

Starting with the situation as we find it today with regard to inputs, required production, personnel and space available and projecting over the next 5 years as realistically as possible we find that the personnel must be increased fourfold and the space required for efficient operation fivefold. An increase of this magnitude requires a building which will net [redacted]

Space within a single building and sufficient to allow for sizeable expansion as the collection system inputs require expanded efforts in the exploitation area is important, but not the sole factor in considering new space. Of equal importance is the adaptability of the structure to the organization of systematic work processing and flow. [redacted]

[redacted] is highly suitable on all the above counts. It has vast areas of open space which permit considerable freedom in the layout of work flow and at the same time help to hold down the cost of making the space ready. As for the expansion factor there is sufficient space to accommodate the estimated expansion for at least a five year period and furthermore the immediate availability of such space will allow for detailed future planning so that when increments of both personnel and equipment are added the need for a costly re-juggling of the initial organization will be eliminated. Tab A presents our planned utilization of the space by functions. More detailed plans and drawings are currently being worked up by [redacted] for early submission. Attached as Tab B is a memorandum, signed by each of the three participating military services, accepting specified allocations of space within the Center.

The final crucial element to be considered is that of time. The Center has been officially established but present space limitations make it extremely difficult to achieve full operation on an expanded basis. In view of the lead time required to ready a new location for occupancy it is vital that swift approval be given these proposals for the acquisition and renovation of [redacted]

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**CONCLUSION**

The National Photographic Interpretation Center must be provided with new and expanded quarters if it is to organize and perform its assigned mission in an efficient manner. These new quarters must be flexible from a flow of work standpoint and spacious enough to house a realistically anticipated expansion with a minimum of disruption. Such quarters have been located in the form of [redacted] and adjudged highly suitable for Center use by the Director, NPIC, the participating Army, Navy, Air Force and CIA elements, the Office of Logistics and [redacted] consultants to NPIC. Approval of the acquisition of this building and the provision of sufficient funds to properly renovate and make it ready for the Center are in order.

**ACTION:**

I am requesting that you:

2. Take necessary action with the Bureau of the Budget in order that obligational authority in the amount of [redacted] to [redacted] be made available for the necessary alteration and renovation of this building;

3. Advise the Director of Logistics to proceed, in consultation with the Director, NPIC, with arrangements for the letting of an architectural and engineering contract and such subsequent construction and renovation contracts as may be necessary.

**ROBERT AMORY, JR.**  
**Deputy Director (Intelligence)**

**Attachments:**  
**As Stated**

**Distribution:**  
O & 1 - Addressee  
1 - DD/I  
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(1 Mar 61)